

Patent claims

1. Method for error handling in a printer or copier,
  - 5       in which a plurality of monitoring units (PT, PU) detect error states of the printer (12) or copier,  
                the detected error states are transmitted to a controller (CM),  

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  - 10       a plurality of successively transmitted error states are stored in a storage,  
                the stored error states are evaluated by the controller (CM),  
                whereby the stored error states are compared with predetermined error  
                patterns and at least one error type is determined,  
  
                an in which further steps are executed by the controller (CM) dependent on  
                the error type.
- 20     2. Method according to claim 1, characterized in that a causative error is  
                determined upon evaluation of the error states.
- 25     3. Method according to any of the preceding claims, characterized in that an  
                error group is selected upon evaluation of the error states, whereby the  
                further steps are established dependent on the selected error group.
- 30     4. Method according to any of the preceding claims, characterized in that the  
                type and/or the sequence of the occurred error states is considered upon  
                comparison of the stored error states with the error patterns.

5. Method according to any of the preceding claims, characterized in that the controller (CM) implements an automatic error correction and/or sends an error notification to a superordinate controller (14, 16).
- 5 6. Method according to claim 5, characterized in that the controller (CM) is connected with a host system (16), whereby the controller (CM) only registers with the host system (16) the occurrence of errors that cannot be corrected automatically.
- 10 7. Method according to claim 5 or 6, characterized in that information about the error type of error states that could be automatically remedied are stored at least in one error storage of the controller (CM, 14).
- 15 8. Method according to any of the preceding claims, characterized in that the error states transmitted up to the shutdown of the printer (12) or copier are evaluated with the aid of a predetermined error evaluation algorithm, whereby at least one error type is determined.
- 20 9. Method according to any of the preceding claims, characterized in that, dependent on the error type and/or a transmitted error state, the printer (12) or copier is automatically restarted or, respectively, an automatic start is prevented and/or a signaling of the error to the superordinate controller (14, 16) ensues.
- 25 10. Method according to any of the preceding claims, characterized in that the printing or, respectively, copying event is ended after the transmission of an error state, and that all error states transmitted up to the shutdown of the printer (12) or copier are stored in the storage and used for evaluation.

11. Method according to any of the preceding claims, characterized in that the stored error states are erased in the storage after the evaluation of the error states.

5 12. Device for error handling in a printer or copier,

with a controller (CM) that transmits error states occurring in the printer  
(12) or copier,

10 with a storage in which a plurality of successively transmitted error states can be stored,

whereby the controller (CM) compares the stored error states with predetermined error patterns and determines at least one error type,

15 and whereby the controller (CM) implements further measures dependent on the error type.

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